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Among the public positions filled by Professor Thomas was that of member of the board of examiners at the International Electrical Exhibition in Philadelphia in 1884 and of the Jury of Awards in the Department of Electricity at the Columbian Exhibition in 1893. At the latter he was placed in charge of a very elaborate test of the life and efficiency of incandescent electric lamps. The results of this prolonged test unfortunately were never published by the government. He was an expert judge of electrical instruments, machinery and processes, and he was in consequence much in demand as a consulting engineer to design the electric plants of large establishments.

As a teacher Professor Thomas excelled in the clearness and precision of his statements. These were matched by the success of his experimental demonstrations. From his students he invariably demanded solid, substantial work; he was impatient with careless or slovenly ways either in the class-room or the laboratory, and constantly held up to his classes high standards of attainment.

The new and substantial physics building at the Ohio State University is a monument to his persistent effort and to his good judgment in planning and working out various details for convenience and efficiency. In the work of his department and all that pertained to it he was indefatigable; to it he gave more than the full measure of time and energy.

Professor Thomas was a genial friend; none more so. The writer was favored with that friendship for many years, and he here gladly gives expression to his deep appreciation of all that this friendship meant to him. Only the bereaved wife, the son and the daughter know what it means to lose a faithful husband and a fond father.

HENRY S. CARHART

ATTENDANCE AT GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

THE *Deutscher Universitäts-Kalender* for the summer semester of 1912, which has just been published, contains a table showing the

enrollment of the twenty-one German universities during the winter semester of 1911-12. The table shows that there were in attendance 57,398 students, as contrasted with 57,200 for the preceding summer semester. This is, however, exclusive of 5,563 auditors, who, if added, would run the grand total to 62,961, as against 61,274 during the summer semester. The University of Berlin continues to lead the list with an enrollment of 9,829 matriculated students, of whom over 5,000 are enrolled in the faculty of philosophy, about 2,000 in the faculty of medicine (including pharmacy and dentistry), 2,412 in law, and 427 in Protestant theology. In addition there were in attendance 776 male auditors and 258 female auditors, bringing the total enrollment of the university during the past winter semester to 10,863, as against 10,720 during the winter semester of 1910-11. The Prussian University of Berlin is followed by the Bavarian University of Munich, which had an enrollment of 6,797 matriculated students and 782 auditors. The Saxon University of Leipzig ranks third with 5,170 matriculated students and 925 auditors. The remaining universities rank in point of attendance as follows: Bonn, 4,279; Breslau, 3,113; Halle, 3,112; Göttingen, 2,637; Freiburg, 2,614; Heidelberg, 2,418; Münster, 2,314; Strassburg, 2,298; Marburg, 2,014; Tübingen, 1,994; Jena, 1,831; Königsberg, 1,694; Kiel, 1,661; Würzburg, 1,583; Giessen, 1,428; Erlangen, 1,251; Greifswald, 1,228; Rostock, 955; the figures in each case being inclusive of auditors. During the winter semester of 1893-94 the universities ranked as follows: (1) Berlin, (2) Munich, (3) Leipzig, (4) Halle, (5) Würzburg, (6) Bonn, (7) Breslau, (8) Tübingen, (9) Erlangen, (10) Freiburg, (11) Heidelberg, (12) Strassburg, (13) Marburg, (14) Göttingen, (15) Greifswald, (16) Königsberg, (17) Jena, (18) Giessen, (19) Kiel, (20) Rostock, and (21) Münster. It will thus be seen that there has been no change in the order of the three largest universities, but that several institutions which were in the lower half of the list eighteen years ago, have grown sufficiently to advance

them into the first division, notably Münster, Strassburg and Göttingen.

Of the 57,398 matriculated students, 2,853 were registered in Protestant theology, 1,770 in Catholic theology, 11,632 in law, 13,870 in medicine, and 27,273 in the faculty of philosophy. In addition there were 3,824 male auditors and 1,739 female auditors. In addition to the female auditors there were 2,796 matriculated women in attendance, as against 2,551 during the summer semester of 1911; 2,126 of these were registered under the faculty of philosophy, 600 in medicine, 65 in law and 5 in theology.

Of the 57,398 matriculated students, 52,435 came from Germany, while 4,417 came from other European countries, 338 from America, 175 from Asia, 28 from Africa and 5 from Australia. The largest delegations from European countries hailed from Russia (2,211), Austria (842), Switzerland (341), Roumania (166), Great Britain and Ireland (160), Bulgaria (153) and Greece (98). Berlin attracts by far the largest number of foreign students, namely, 1,536, being followed by Munich (752), Leipzig (697), Halle (320), Heidelberg (215), Königsberg (203), Göttingen (172) and Breslau (160).

R. TOMBO, JR.

THE MEDICAL SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

THE University of Illinois undertook some years ago in the city of Chicago an experiment in the work of medical education. As it had received no grant from the legislature for the erection of a plant, it leased the buildings, ground and equipment necessary for the use of a medical school from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in the city of Chicago. The rental paid for this property was very reasonable, not exceeding, in fact, the fixed charges of the plant, counting in the interest on the mortgages and bonds and the requirements of the sinking fund. The school has been conducted for some fifteen years under this general arrangement, with details varied from time to time. During that period the school has been greatly improved, and ranks

to-day among the good American medical schools.

The University of Illinois, however, has never expended upon this school or its management or in rent for the use of the property, a single dollar from the state appropriations. It has been limited to the use of the fees paid by students. The claim may be fairly made that no better school, conducted on the basis of student fees alone, can be found in the country. The time has come, however, when no medical school can be maintained in accordance with modern standards, whose only support is derived from the payment of fees by students. Recognizing this fact, and unwilling to conduct an inferior school, the university has asked the legislature upon three different occasions for funds to put the school upon a proper basis. The legislature granted at one time the sum of \$389,000 for the purpose of providing an adequate plant for the use of the medical school. The governor, however, vetoed this bill. In answer to the last request from the university, the legislature granted (at the 47th Session) for the present biennium, the sum of \$60,000 per annum for the equipment, maintenance and extension of the college of medicine of the University of Illinois. This appropriation was lost by the recent decision of the Supreme Court that it was unconstitutional, owing to the fact that the provision in the bill making this appropriation had been amended in the conference committee without having been printed.

The university now renews its request to the General Assembly for an appropriation for the equipment, maintenance and extension of its work in medicine and public health. The College of Physicians and Surgeons, however, has decided not to renew to the university the lease for the use of its present plant in the city of Chicago when it expires on June 30, 1912.

Owing to the fact that there is no other adequate plant in the city of Chicago which can be obtained for the use of a medical school, at a reasonable rental, the board of trustees of the university have been compelled to announce the closing of the medical